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Citrus IPM Newsletter

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Exotic Pest Alert: Asian Citrus Psyllid Detected in Tijuana

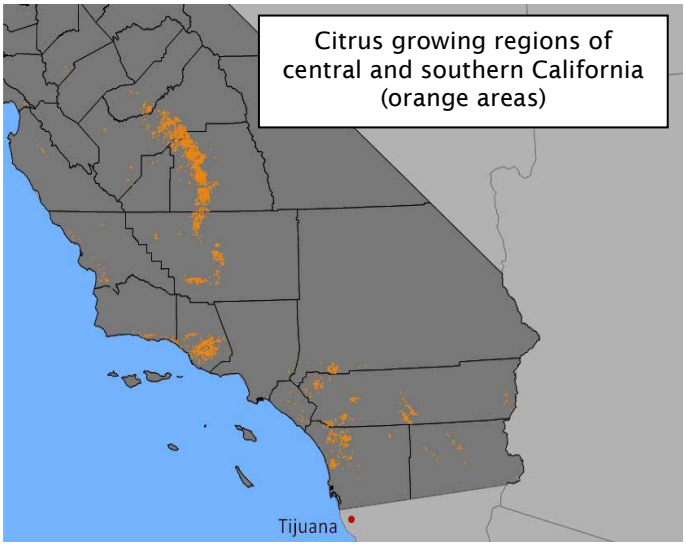
The Asian citrus psyllid, an insect pest that California can ill afford to have introduced, has been found in three backyards near the California border in Tijuana, Mexico by a USDA pest trapping program. Extensive surveys of citrus in California are being conducted by CDFA near the border and so far the pest has not been found on the California side of the border. The pest is originally from Asia. Previously, this pest had been known to be established in central Mexico, the Caribbean islands, and throughout Florida since its introduction there in 1998. More recent psyllid infestations include Texas since 2001, Hawaii in 2007 and coastal Louisiana in May of 2008. Thus, this pest is closing in on California.

Asian citrus psyllid can inflict damage to citrus in two ways – directly, by feeding on new growth and causing stunting and malformation of leaves and twigs; and indirectly by vectoring the bacterium that is responsible for huanglongbing (HLB) also known as citrus greening disease. It is the disease vectored by the psyllid that is most worrisome to California growers, as HLB has devastated citrus production everywhere in the world that it is found. Symptoms of the disease include yellowing of leaves and the fruit grows asymmetrically, remaining green at the navel end, with aborted seeds, and the juice is bitter tasting. There is no cure for the disease and the only remedy is destruction of the tree to prevent the disease from spreading to other trees.

HLB disease originates from Asia and in the region of the Americas it is found in Florida, Brazil and Cuba. Louisiana found one HLB-positive backyard tree that was removed. Mexico is currently surveying citrus for HLB.

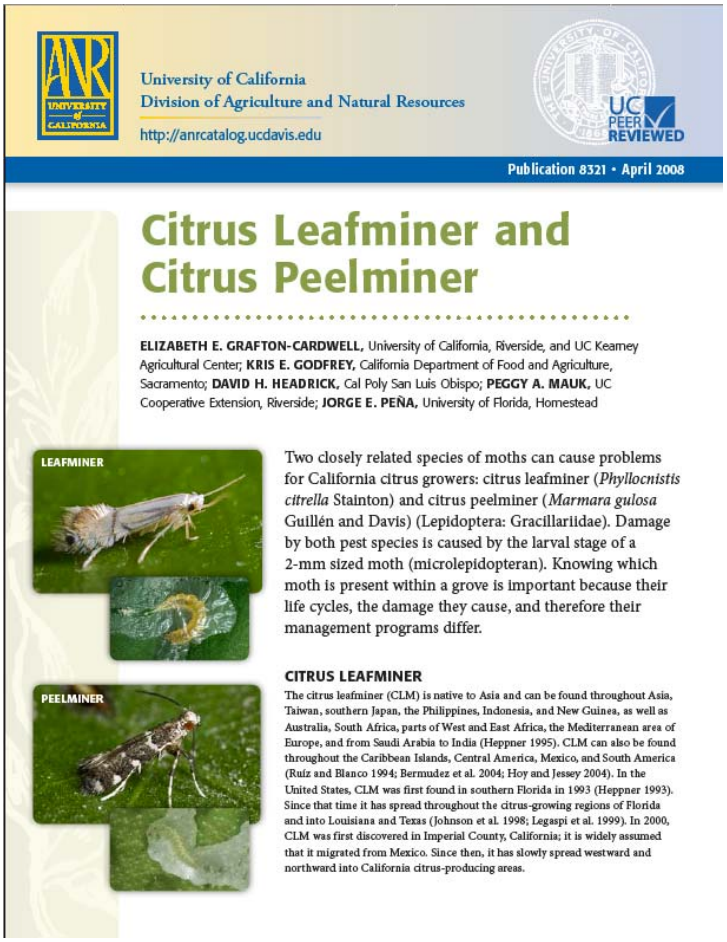
The appearance of Asian citrus psyllid near the California border has triggered intensive surveys of citrus and closely related plants by CDFA and a media blitz funded by the Citrus Research Board to alert the urban population. It is important that you assist these programs by training yourself and others to watch for evidence of psyllids (sooty mold, waxy tubules, eggs and nymphs in new citrus flush, and adults on yellow sticky traps). See the publication on our web site for details on what to watch for: http://citrusent.uckac.edu/asian_citrus_psyllidmain.htm or downloaded it for free from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources web page: http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8205.pdf

For pdf versions of posters and cards in English, Spanish and Chinese that you can print and distribute to assist with recognition of the pest go to the Citrus Clonal Protection Program website: http://ccpp.ucr.edu/news/HLB-ACPs-ANR-Educational-7-20-07.html
If you think you have found the psyllid or disease, call your local County Ag Commissioners office or the CDFA exotic pest hotline: **1-800-491-1899.**



Citrus Leafminer and Citrus Peelminer – New Brochure

A new publication describing the lifecycle and distinguishing characteristics of citrus peelminer and citrus leafminer has been released. The brochure has extensive information on the biology and the damage they cause to citrus, as well as many photographs. The publication may be downloaded from our website, http://citrusent.uckac.edu/citrus_peelminer.htm or downloaded for free from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources at http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8321.pdf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Citrus Leafminer and Citrus Peelminer

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LEAFMINER

PEELMINER

Two closely related species of moths can cause problems for California citrus growers: citrus leafminer (*Phyllocnistis citrella* Stainton) and citrus peelminer (*Marmara gulosa* Guillén and Davis) (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae). Damage by both pest species is caused by the larval stage of a 2-mm sized moth (microlepidopteran). Knowing which moth is present within a grove is important because their life cycles, the damage they cause, and therefore their management programs differ.

CITRUS LEAFMINER

The citrus leafminer (CLM) is native to Asia and can be found throughout Asia, Taiwan, southern Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Guinea, as well as Australia, South Africa, parts of West and East Africa, the Mediterranean area of Europe, and from Saudi Arabia to India (Heppner 1995). CLM can also be found throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, Mexico, and South America (Ruíz and Blanco 1994; Bermudez et al. 2004; Hoy and Jessey 2004). In the United States, CLM was first found in southern Florida in 1993 (Heppner 1993). Since that time it has spread throughout the citrus-growing regions of Florida and into Louisiana and Texas (Johnson et al. 1998; Legaspi et al. 1999). In 2000, CLM was first discovered in Imperial County, California; it is widely assumed that it migrated from Mexico. Since then, it has slowly spread westward and northward into California citrus-producing areas.

The Citrus IPM Newsletter is published by the University of California Citrus Entomology Laboratory at the Kearney Agricultural Research Center.

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